

We claim:

1. A method for client-based multicast message transmission, the method including the steps:
 - a) receiving a message content to be transmitted in a message;
 - b) receiving delivery information for first and second recipients to whom the message is to be transmitted;
 - c) receiving an instruction to begin the message transmission;
 - d) transmitting the message from the client to the first recipient; and
 - e) transmitting the message from the client to the second recipient.
2. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the message content is received from an input device associated with the client.
3. The method as set forth in claim 2 wherein the input device includes at least one of a keypad, keyboard, pointing device, and voice recognition device.
4. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the message content is received from a saved message area associated with the client.
5. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the delivery information for the first and second recipients is received from at least one of an input device associated with the client and a previously stored list of contacts associated with the client.
6. The method as set forth in claim 1, step b) further including:
receiving delivery information for one or more additional recipients to whom the message is to be transmitted.
7. The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein at least one of the additional recipients is a previously defined recipient group received from a stored list of contacts, the recipient group including delivery information for third and fourth

recipients to whom the message is to be transmitted, the method further including the steps:

- f) transmitting the message from the client to the third recipient; and
- g) transmitting the message from the client to the fourth recipient.

8. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the instruction to begin message transmission is received from an input device associated with the client.

9. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein each of the message transmissions in steps d) and e) include a request for a response indicating an outcome for the message transmission, the method further including the steps:

- f) receiving a report indicating an outcome for the message transmission to the first recipient; and
- g) receiving a report indicating an outcome for the message transmission to the second recipient.

10. A method for client-based multicast message transmission, the method including the steps:

- a) receiving a message content to be transmitted in a message;
- b) receiving delivery information for first and second recipients to whom the message is to be transmitted;
- c) receiving an instruction to begin the message transmission;
- d) transmitting the message to the first recipient and a request for a response indicating an outcome for the message transmission;
- e) transmitting the message to the second recipient and a request for a response indicating an outcome for the message transmission;
- f) receiving a report indicating an outcome for the message transmission to the first recipient; and
- g) receiving a report indicating an outcome for the message transmission to the second recipient.

11. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein the message content, delivery

information for first and second recipients, and instruction to begin the message transmission are received from an input device associated with the client.

12. The method as set forth in claim 11 wherein the input device includes at least one of a keypad, keyboard, pointing device, and voice recognition device.

13. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein the message content is received from a saved message area associated with the client.

14. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein the delivery information for the first and second recipients is received from a previously stored list of contacts associated with the client.

15. The method as set forth in claim 10, step b) further including:
receiving delivery information for one or more additional recipients to whom the message is to be transmitted.

16. The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein at least one of the additional recipients is a previously defined recipient group received from a stored list of contacts, the recipient group including delivery information for third and fourth recipients to whom the message is to be transmitted, the method further including the steps:

h) transmitting the message to the third recipient and a request for a response indicating an outcome for the message transmission;

i) transmitting the message to the fourth recipient and a request for a response indicating an outcome for the message transmission;

j) receiving a report indicating an outcome for the message transmission to the third recipient; and

k) receiving a report indicating an outcome for the message transmission to the fourth recipient.

17. A messaging client for transmitting a message to multiple message recipients using a client-based multicast message transmission method, the messaging client including:

a means for receiving a message content to be transmitted in the message, delivery information for first and second recipients to whom the message is to be transmitted, and an instruction to begin the message transmission; and

a means for transmitting the message to the first and second recipients, wherein the transmission to the second recipient is independent from the transmission to the first recipient.

18. The messaging client as set forth in claim 17, the messaging client further including at least one of a keypad, keyboard, pointing device, and voice recognition device to provide the message content, delivery information, and instruction to begin the message transmission to the receiving means.

19. The messaging client as set forth in claim 18, the messaging client further including a saved message area to provide the message content to the receiving means.

20. The messaging client as set forth in claim 18, the messaging client further including a contact list to provide the delivery information to the receiving means.